

LEWISHAM GROUP
HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

First Annual Report

FOR THE PERIOD

5th JULY, 1948, to 31st DECEMBER, 1948



WALTER R. OWEN
Chairman.

A. J. TASKER
Secretary.

27th September, 1949.



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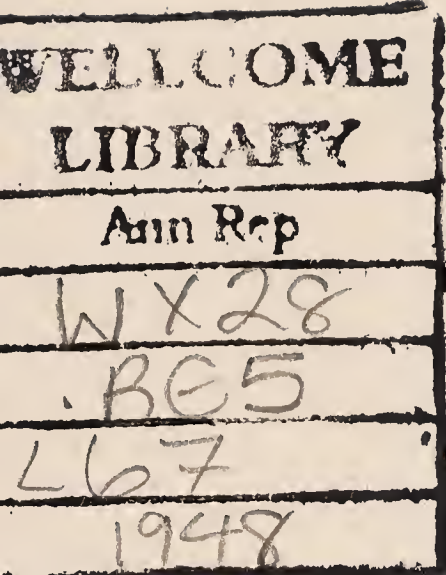
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THE BLACKHEATH PRESS, LTD., LONDON, S.E.3.



GROUP ESTABLISHMENTS

LEWISHAM HOSPITAL (General)
High Street, Lewisham, S.E.13.

PARK HOSPITAL, (Infectious diseases and general)
Hither Green, S.E.13.

GROVE PARK HOSPITAL (Tuberculosis)
Marvels Lane, Lee, S.E.12.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL (General)
Morden Hill, Lewisham, S.E.13.

BRITISH DENTAL HOSPITAL
72, Lewisham Park, S.E.13.

SOUTHERN GROUP LABORATORY
Park Hospital, Hither Green, S.E.13.

LEWISHAM GROUP LABORATORY
Lewisham Hospital,
High Street, Lewisham, S.E.13.

LEWISHAM CHEST CLINIC
1, Blagdon Road, Lewisham, S.E.13.

SOUTH-EAST LONDON MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT
Grove Park Hospital, Marvels Lane, Lee, S.E.12.

LEWISHAM GROUP HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

for the period 5th July, 1948, to 31st December, 1948

Introduction.

Under Section (3) of the National Health Service Act (1946) the Minister of Health has the duty of providing a comprehensive hospital and specialist service, directly answerable to Parliament for his discharge of that duty. The Minister discharges this duty principally through Regional Hospital Boards acting as his agents, who in their turn appoint Hospital Management Committees to act as their agents for the control and management of the day-to-day administration of individual hospitals or groups of hospitals in the Region.

The Lewisham Group Hospital Management Committee consists of seventeen members appointed by the South East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, all of whom are voluntary workers selected from various bodies representing medical and lay organisations in the area.

At the first meeting of the Committee on 21st May, 1948, three sub-committees were appointed, General Purposes (an executive sub-committee), Finance and a Staff or Establishment, and in addition a Group Medical Committee comprising elected representatives from each of the group establishments to advise the Management Committee on all medical matters affecting the group. The first task of the Management Committee was to survey the needs of the group, to open beds, and to encourage the recruitment of nursing staff, a very necessary and important step, in view of the fact that a large number of beds was closed in the group as the result of the lack of nursing staff. A scientific advertising campaign was initiated, but although in the main the flow of recruits was just sufficient to maintain the existing staffed beds after allowance had been made for staff who had left the group during the period, part of a ward consisting of ten beds was opened in November 1948, for women patients at Lewisham hospital.

The Finance Committee prepared estimates of expenditure for the period ending 31st March, 1949, and for the year 1949/1950, which were approved and sent to the Regional Board. Recruitment of the Management Committee's administrative staff proceeded, mainly from those transferable under the Act, and office accommodation was secured in a ward block not in use at Lewisham hospital.

It may be of interest to record that towards the end of the year an information sheet was in the course of preparation for circulation to general practitioners in the area, giving details of the procedure for the admission of patients together with other available matters of interest concerning the facilities provided under the National Health Service at the group establishments.

The Management Committee was also seriously concerned at the urgent arrears of maintenance work and depletion of equipment which had arisen during the war years, and a list of the main items of works and equipment authorised during the period is set out later in this report.

As it was not possible for the Management Committee to assume entire responsibility for all services as from the "appointed day," agency arrangements had been made in respect of Lewisham, Park and Grove Park hospitals, the Lewisham and Southern Group Laboratories, for the London County Council to continue engineering, supplies and certain financial obligations for an interim period. Finance and certain supply agencies were terminated on 31st December, 1948, and arrangements made to terminate the remaining agencies early in 1949.

The agency arrangements with the Lewisham Borough Council in respect of the former Lewisham Tuberculosis Dispensary were terminated on 30th September, 1948.

The thanks of the Committee are due to the London County Council and to the Lewisham Metropolitan Borough Council and to their officers for their unstinted help and co-operation during these early months.

THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman

Walter R. Owen, Esq., D.L., J.P., L.C.C.

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N. W. Farmer, Esq., L.C.C.
K. Heritage, Esq., M.S., F.R.C.S.
Mrs. E. A. Johnson.
Dr. J. E. McCartney, M.D., D.Sc.
Dr. H. V. Morlock, M.C., M.D., F.R.C.P.
Dr. H. Nockolds, D.S.O., M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.
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Mrs. W. J. Philpott, J.P.
J. Sherrington, Esq.
E. C. Sherwood, Esq., L.C.C.
Mrs. C. M. Stocken, S.R.N.

Officers

Secretary : A. J. Tasker
Finance Officer : C. J. Fuller, A.C.I.S.
Supplies Officer : H. O. Skitt
Group Engineer : J. H. Pattison, A.M.I.MECH.E.

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N. W. Farmer, Esq., L.C.C.
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Dr. H. Nockolds, D.S.O., M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.
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Dr. H. V. Morlock, M.C., M.D., F.R.C.P.

Dr. H. Nockolds, D.S.O., M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.

W. R. Owen, Esq., D.L., J.P., L.C.C. (ex-officio)

J. Sherrington, Esq.

ESTABLISHMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

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F. B. Page, Esq.

Mrs. W. J. Philpott, J.P.

E. C. Sherwood, Esq., L.C.C.

Mrs. C. M. Stocken, S.R.N.

GROUP MEDICAL COMMITTEE

Chairman

Dr. H. S. Banks, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Dr. E. H. Bailey, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Dr. E. N. Allott, M.A., B.Sc., B.M., B.Ch., F.R.C.P.

Mr. C. C. Beney, M.A., M.B., B.Ch.

*Mr. W. P. Cleland, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S., M.R.C.P.

*Mr. A. T. Fripp, M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S.

Mr. A. L. Gunn, B.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G.

*Mr. J. Howkins, M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G.

†Dr. K. E. A. Hughes, M.B.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Mr. J. Jemson, F.R.C.S.

Dr. L. J. M. Laurent, M.D., M.R.C.P.

Dr. M. H. Logg, M.D.

†Dr. M. M. Nagley, M.D.

Dr. J. E. Stokes, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

*Resigned during 1948

†Appointed during 1948

HOSPITALS, LABORATORIES, CHEST CLINIC

Staff

LEWISHAM HOSPITAL

Medical Superintendent

H. Nockolds, D.S.O., M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.

Matron

Miss M. C. Bell

PARK HOSPITAL

Physician-Superintendent

H. S. Banks, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Matron—Miss M. R. Bell

GROVE PARK HOSPITAL

Physician-Superintendent

M. H. Logg, M.D.

Matron—Miss A. D. Cooper

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL

Chairman of Medical Staff Committee

K. Heritage, M.S., F.R.C.S.

Secretary-Superintendent

J. C. Gilbert, F.H.A.

Matron—Miss E. M. Winrow

SOUTHERN GROUP LABORATORY

Director—J. E. McCartney, M.D., D.Sc.

LEWISHAM GROUP LABORATORY

Group Pathologist—E. N. Allott, M.A., B.Sc., B.M., B.Ch., F.R.C.P.

LEWISHAM CHEST CLINIC

Chest Physician—J. E. Stokes, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

SOUTH-EAST LONDON MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT

Medical Director—F. D. Beddard, M.B., B.S.

The "appointed day" was 5th July, 1948, when the Management Committee assumed responsibility for the administration of the under-mentioned establishments of which a very brief history and a short report of the work undertaken thereat during the period is summarised:—

LEWISHAM HOSPITAL

A former London County Council general hospital opened originally in 1817 and occupying 11 acres. The pre-war bed accommodation was 781 but owing to severe damage by enemy action the accommodation is reduced to 611. There is a very large outpatient department of nearly 60 clinics working under very grave difficulties owing to war damage causing the clinics to be scattered over a number of disconnected buildings. The hospital also contains a preliminary training school for student nurses (male and female) for the whole group, and a part II midwifery training school.

Out-patients' department—The Management Committee, seriously concerned at the lack of adequate out-patient facilities at Lewisham hospital approached the Regional Board in August, stressing the most urgent need for the immediate rebuilding of the out-patient department as a first priority of the rebuilding programme. Apart from the fact that, owing to severe war damage the present clinics are scattered over a number of disconnected buildings, the need for an extension of the department was recognised before the war and preliminary steps were authorised by the London County Council for the preparation of a scheme for the erection of a new out-patients' department. The volume of work has progressively increased and it is hoped that some new reconstruction will be authorised in the very near future.

Refresher courses for general practitioners—Courses for lectures for the postgraduate education for general practitioners, given by specialists on the group's medical staff were arranged during the year, and in addition six medical students worked for varying periods at the hospital during their summer vacation.

Psychiatric clinic—An out-patient psychiatric unit commenced work on 6th October, 1948, one session being held each week.

Emergency obstetric unit—An emergency obstetric unit consisting of a doctor and midwife is maintained at the hospital, available in emergencies where immediate assistance is required, e.g. blood transfusion and the patient is too ill for removal to hospital. The emergency unit is conveyed to the patient's home by the London Ambulance Service.

Gas and air analgesia lectures—A course of lectures, in accordance with a scheme formulated by the Central Midwives Board was held at the hospital during October 1948.

Royal College of Nursing—Two students from the Royal College of Nursing were attached to the hospital for a period of four weeks to gain practical experience in hospital administration.

Dr. H. Nockolds, medical superintendent reached retiring age in May 1948, but in view of the impending change in administration agreed to an extension of his engagement for a further period of six months. In July, 1948, the Management Committee further considered the retention of his services, and were unanimously of the opinion that in view of the many problems which had arisen and would continue to arise and of Dr. Nockolds' very long and exceptional experience of Lewisham hospital and the needs of the district, he should continue in office until 31st March, 1949 to which Dr. Nockolds and the Regional Board agreed.

Appointment of Senior Staff

Matron—Miss Marjorie Bell was appointed Matron and commenced duty on 27th August, 1948. Miss Bell was trained at Dulwich hospital where she was awarded a Distinction Certificate ; was the Gold Medallist for fever training at the South Western hospital ; passed the examination of the Tuberculosis Association in Honours, is a State Certified Midwife and possesses the London County Council Housekeeping Certificate. Miss Bell had previously held appointments of assistant Matron at a number of hospitals including Hammersmith Hospital (Post-graduate Medical School) and Matron at St. George-in-the-East Hospital.

Radiologist—Dr. M. C. Wood, M.A., M.D., D.M.R.

Surgeon Specialist—Mr. A. Cavendish, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.

Assistant Specialist—(obstetrics and gynaecology)—Mrs. J. Karnicki, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.O.G.

Second Assistant Matron—Miss E. G. Lyne.

Preliminary training school—Prior to 5th July, 1948, arrangements had been made by the London County Council for student nurses at the Park and Grove Park hospitals to be sent to certain other London County Council hospitals for their preliminary training and student nurses at St. John's hospital were sent to the Memorial Hospital at Woolwich.

The Management Committee decided that group arrangements should be made for the preliminary training of student nurses and a central preliminary training school to be commenced at Lewisham hospital for all student nurses from the hospitals in the group as from 1st January, 1949.

Nurses' home—One of the first considerations of the Management Committee was to improve the amenities of the nurses' home and a considerable amount of new furniture and equipment was installed by Christmas 1948.

Colfe's Almshouses—This building, situated within the curtilage of Lewisham hospital and damaged by enemy action is scheduled as an ancient monument, and is an important example of the architecture of its period, having been erected between 1664 and 1666. Discussions took place during the year as to the use and restoration of the building in the light of plans for the reconstruction of a large area of Lewisham hospital.

PARK HOSPITAL

A former London County Council hospital occupying 20 acres, originally opened in 1897 as an acute fever hospital. The pre-war bed accommodation figure of 632 was curtailed as the result of enemy action to 572 beds (allocated as 272 fever and 300 general beds). The hospital is a fever training school (two years' training).

Admissions in 1948 dropped to the low record figure of 1511 compared with some 5000 admissions in pre-war years and during one period of the year there was neither a scarlet fever nor a diphtheria ward open. The variety of infections admitted for treatment was very much greater than before, and more than a quarter of the admissions were finally diagnosed as general diseases or non-notifiable infections requiring complete clinical and laboratory investigation before the nature of the complaint could be elucidated. During the year a unit of four beds for the treatment of tuberculous meningitis and a pneumonia ward were opened, the latter being necessitated by the influenza epidemic. On the other hand a ward which had been allocated to pulmonary tuberculosis for some years had to be allowed to run down owing to the extreme shortage of nursing staff.

The marked reduction in the size of the infectious unit is due to the reduction in the incidence of diphtheria and the more severe forms of scarlet fever, measles and whooping cough in recent years, as well as the difficulty in obtaining nursing staff for special hospitals. The diphtheria incidence is likely to remain low, but will always be a serious problem among those who are unimmunised, but the severity of scarlet fever and measles is likely to return judging from the history of these diseases in the last two or three centuries. Owing to the serious shortage of nursing staff even the much reduced work of the hospital has been carried out with great difficulty, the whole time nursing staff being supplemented by part-time nursing staff and ward orderlies.

During the year a beginning was made in the improvement of the decoration and furnishing of the nurses' home.

GROVE PARK HOSPITAL

A former London County Council special hospital for the treatment of tuberculosis, occupying 51 acres, originally opened in 1926. The potential bed accommodation is 401. The hospital is equipped to deal with adults (men and women) with advanced pulmonary tuberculosis and is an accepted complete Training School for the certificate of the Tuberculosis Association in addition to being registered by the General Nursing Council as an affiliated Training School for male and female nurses.

The volume of work has gradually increased during the year, but the number of in-patients was limited by the nursing staff available.

As from 1st September, 1948, this hospital became the distribution centre for the South East Metropolitan Region for streptomycin, and a number of beds was allocated from that date for streptomycin therapy.

In view of the recognised value of occupational and diversional therapeutic treatment for tuberculosis patients, and the fact that there is an average of 150 patients capable of benefiting from such treatment, the establishment of occupational therapists was increased and the facilities for diversional occupation extended during the year.

At the request of the Regional Board arrangements were completed towards the end of the year for two mass miniature radiography units (one static and one peripatetic) to be accommodated temporarily in " D " block at the hospital early in 1949, it being necessary to carry out certain urgent minor works and to purchase certain equipment.

Supply of Para-aminosalicylic Acid—In 1947, the London County Council, through its Clinical Research Committee spent a considerable sum of money on this drug (known as P.A.S.) for clinical trials in various types of tuberculosis at Grove Park hospital, the first hospital in this country to use the drug, which originated in Sweden. As the use of P.A.S. had thus become an accepted method of treatment at the hospital and subsequently adopted by numerous tuberculosis units throughout the country, the Management Committee agreed that an expenditure of approximately £100 a week be sanctioned in respect of its supply, as they were anxious that this experimental work, approved by the Medical Research Council, should not be interrupted as the result of the change of administration.

Provision of Chest Clinic—The Management Committee had under consideration the urgent provision of additional tuberculosis out-patient facilities for the group and considered that Grove Park hospital was ideally situated geographically for the provision of a complete new chest clinic within the precincts of that hospital. The Regional Board were asked to consider this proposal when the out-patient facilities for tuberculosis patients for the whole of the Region were under consideration by the Board.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL

A former voluntary general hospital occupying 7 acres, with provision for 112 beds. The hospital was started in 1883 by the Nursing Sisterhood of St. John the Divine and commenced with ten beds. The work of the hospital has been handicapped by lack of nursing staff and damage by enemy action not yet repaired.

In 1946 the Ministry of Health gave a promise to the late Court of Governors that licences would be issued for the erection of an extension to the nurses' home in compensation for the loss of premises demolished by enemy action which were formerly used as a nurses' home annexe. Work was commenced in October 1947 and during 1948 the Regional Board obtained the authority of the Ministry of Health to incur the necessary expenditure for proceeding with the scheme. The extension will provide 29 bedrooms, lecture and demonstration rooms, sitting and writing rooms and studies. It is hoped that the extension will be completed and furnished during 1949.

Resignations of Senior Medical Staff—

Mr. D. M. Cooper, venereologist.

Mr. A. T. Fripp, orthopaedic surgeon.

Dr. J. R. B. Hern, physician.

In view of their long association with St. John's hospital, Mr. A. T. Fripp was appointed an honorary surgeon and Dr. J. R. B. Hern, an honorary physician to the hospital.

Stores.

A new stores building was completed during the year, rebuilding being commenced in September, 1947, by the late Court of Governors to replace buildings demolished by enemy action. The stores are well planned and are an excellent acquisition to the hospital.

SOUTHERN GROUP LABORATORY

A former London County Council laboratory situated in the grounds of Park hospital and opened in 1927. The laboratory undertakes the preparation of certain materials required for therapeutic and other uses for hospitals throughout the country and abroad, in addition to carrying out photographic and research work.

The laboratory undertakes all the pathological work for Park, St. Nicholas, White Oak, and Goldie Leigh hospitals, and supervises the work of Grove Park, Queen Mary's, Sidcup, and Queen Mary's hospital, Carshalton, where there are laboratories with technicians. Laboratory work is also carried out for the School Medical Service of the London County Council as well as milk and other examinations for that Authority. Miscellaneous examinations are also undertaken for various other hospitals.

Culture media and other products—The laboratory supplies culture media, stains and biological products to laboratories throughout the country and abroad, and the demands, while not equal to those of the late war years are still very considerable; the number of bottles issued being over 1,363,000 and the number of containers, which includes ampoules, capillary tubes, etc., was over 1,474,000. The work is greatly handicapped by being undertaken in improvised premises at three hospitals, Park, New Cross General and West Park, Epsom, and it is hoped to centralise the work in the near future.

LEWISHAM GROUP LABORATORY

A former London County Council laboratory opened in 1931, and situated in the grounds of Lewisham hospital—undertakes pathological and special work, chiefly bio-chemical investigations—work in connection with the Rhesus factor and blood transfusion service.

The laboratory undertakes all the pathological work for Lewisham and Brook hospitals, Ravensbourne House, and a large proportion of the work from St. Alfege's, St. Olave's, Joyce Green and Southern hospitals.

The total number of examinations made during the year, some 102,000 specimens, was the highest recorded since this laboratory has been opened, and the supply of standard chemical solutions to other laboratories has shown a very marked increase, 12,932 bottles being supplied.

The work of the Rhesus unit has increased during the year, a very large amount of Rh. testing being undertaken for other hospitals, clinics, and laboratories in the Region, the laboratory now carrying out routine test for the ante-natal clinics at Lewisham, St. Alfege's, St. Olave's, St. Giles, Dulwich and Woolwich Memorial hospitals, as well as for a number of the ante-natal clinics in the neighbourhood. Sensitisation to the Rh. factor is the cause of many cases of serious jaundice in new born babies and the affected babies are commonly referred to as "yellow babies," many of whom would die without adequate treatment. In a considerable number of cases it is arranged for the baby to be born prematurely and, if certain blood tests give the indication, a replacement transfusion is carried out in the first few hours. The baby's blood is almost completely replaced by blood from an "Rh-negative donor." It is found that this gives a much better chance to the babies suffering from the disease and, in many cases, is life saving. During 1948 some eighty mothers were referred to this unit.

During the year approximately 1000 donors were bled in the blood transfusion unit.

A paper was prepared during 1948 and published in the *Lancet* in February 1949, "The Rhesus Factor, a summary based on 200 cases" by Dr. E. N. Allott and Dr. C. A. Holman.

Appointment of Senior Staff.

Assistant Pathologist—Dr. C. K. McDonald, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

LEWISHAM CHEST CLINIC

Formerly administered by the Lewisham Borough Council and known as the Lewisham Tuberculosis Dispensary. A centre for diagnosis, with comprehensive organisation for the care and after care of patients suffering from tuberculosis and co-ordination with the School Health service and general practitioners.

The total number of patients on the clinic register at the beginning of the year was 2067, and at the end of the year 2217. This increase is not entirely due to an increase in the disease but is probably due to several factors including increase in population and improvement in the work of the clinic, a third chest physician being added to the staff in June, 1948.

BRITISH DENTAL HOSPITAL, 72 LEWISHAM PARK, S.E.13

These premises have been controlled by the British Dental Hospitals Association through the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, and the Ministry of Health intimated in November 1948 that it was intended to bring to an end the work done at that hospital as soon as possible, after which it was hoped to make other arrangements for the use or disposal of the premises and that the South East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board were requested to accept responsibility for the current expenses and to avoid making new arrangements which would in any case only have effect for a short time.

The Management Committee informed the Board that if the whole of the premises could be made available, they could be put to some useful purpose.

SUPPLIES

A survey of the general position regarding supplies in the group establishments was made during the latter part of the year. It was found that after nine years of scarcity, stocks were very low and in some instances, non-existent. The position was particularly difficult with regard to bed linen, cups and saucers, tumblers, etc., and after negotiation several long outstanding orders were executed. It was found advantageous to place orders locally for printing requirements as although the agency arrangements with the London County Council were to continue until 31st March, 1949, the large printing contractors of that authority were heavily in arrears with orders. Small purchases of furniture and textiles were also made, mainly as an interim arrangement.

The London County Council decided to terminate all local contracts for services and certain supplies at the end of the year and arrangements were made for the Management Committee to take over as from 1st January, 1949, twenty-eight service contracts (laundrywork, window cleaning, etc.) and five supply contracts (milk, bread, etc.).

WORKS AND ENGINEERING

Generally the hospitals and buildings were found to be in urgent need of external decorating which had not been undertaken for many years as well as repairs and rebuilding necessary as a result of war damage.

Among the works and equipment authorised during the period were :

LEWISHAM HOSPITAL

Nurses' home—

			£	s.	d.
Furniture and equipment	...	...	1,500	0	0
Sinks, gas stove and steam oven	...	...	300	0	0
Boiling pans	...	...	300	0	0
Installation of hair dryers	...	...	95	0	0

Ward A.3.—	Covered way to balcony	...	...	150	0	0
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Wards, C.4, 5 and 6.—

Provision of sunblinds	...	...	...	140	0	0
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X-ray department—

Provision of waiting room	...	...	70	0	0
Two Phillips developing units	...	...	490	0	0
New rotating anode tube...	...	...	500	0	0
Miscellaneous items of equipment	...	...	216	0	0

PARK HOSPITAL

Nurses' home—

New wardrobes and dressing tables	...	...	1,100	0	0
Divan beds and Lloyd Loom chairs	...	...	1,050	0	0
Ward window blinds	...	...	350	0	0
Sisters' shampooing and ironing room	...	...	130	0	0
Felling and tree lopping	...	...	258	0	0
Automatic locking devices for laundry					
hydro-extractors	...	...	285	0	0
Installation of gas fires and rings in night					
sisters' and medical officers' quarters			105	0	0
Lathe for engineers' shop	...	...	210	0	0

GROVE PARK HOSPITAL

Dish-washing machine	270	0	0
Nurses' home equipment	266	0	0
Provision and installation of Phillips X-ray co-ordinator unit, 4 valve 500 m.A. etc. ...	4,800	0	0
	(Approx.)		

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL

Gate porters' hut	86	0	0
Re-wiring of massage department ...	295	0	0
X-ray film drying cupboard	72	0	0

SOUTHERN GROUP LABORATORY

Centrifugal freeze drier	170	0	0
Two refrigerators and three timing clocks	120	0	0
Fluorescent lighting	95	0	0

LEWISHAM GROUP LABORATORY

Low temperature refrigerator	129	10	0
Fluorescent lighting	127	0	0
(Patients' waiting hall included)			

CHEST CLINIC

X-ray plant—new dynamo insert ...	233	0	0
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Each of the group hospitals has its own engineering staff and workshops and staff are temporarily transferred between establishments according to the needs of the work in hand. Many major and minor works were scheduled to be undertaken in 1949.

Memoranda from the Ministry of Health—The Ministry of Health, from time to time, issue memoranda to the Management Committee on policy, procedure and the future development of the hospital service, covering all aspects of administration, finance, staffing, supplies, works etc., and during the period 5th July to 31st December, 1948, 81 such memoranda were received.

Waiting Lists—The Management Committee are seriously exercised at the long waiting lists of patients at Lewisham and St. John's hospitals and are taking steps to reduce the waiting times as quickly as possible.

Visiting the hospitals, laboratories and chest clinic—In order to promote the welfare of the patients and staff of the group establishments the Management Committee decided to form themselves into four visiting groups of four each, with a convenor for each group. These members in fact form a "House Committee" and make frequent visits to the group establishments dealing with such matters as the comfort and well-being of the patients and staff and visit the wards, inspect the kitchens, laundries, etc., and see meals served. They also meet together with the principal officers and interview any of the staff recently appointed to, or about to leave the service. These groups move round every three months to another establishment so that each member will have a complete knowledge of all the establishments by the end of the year. The two group laboratories and the chest clinic are for these purposes included in the arrangements for visiting one or other of the hospitals.

These sections of the Management Committee report back to the committee on any matters which they deem it expedient to do so.

Medical examination of staff—The Management Committee approved the procedure to be followed in respect of the medical examination of staff on appointment to the service and for retirement on grounds of ill-health.

Group radiographers—Arrangements were made in July, 1948, for the formation of a week-end emergency and stand-by rota duty of all the radiographers in the group, and the Management Committee approved a scale of payment for services thus undertaken.

Regrading of administrative and clerical staff—Arrangements for the regrading of administrative and clerical staff of the group establishments, on the rates of pay and conditions of service laid down by the Ministry of Health, were approved by the Management Committee in December, 1948.

Patients' and staff libraries—Libraries for patients and staffs are maintained at the group hospitals and excellent work was undertaken during the year by the voluntary librarians. Through the auspices of the British Red Cross Library Fund, gifts of books for the libraries have been received ; at Lewisham hospital six chosen books being given each month, thus enabling the library to have some of the most up-to-date books greatly appreciated by the patients. There are six voluntary librarians at Lewisham hospital and during the year 36,591 books were issued, an average of 706 books each week, and at St. John's hospital, issues during the year totalled 8,370 books. At Park hospital, gift books are received from time to time including an annual grant of children's books from the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge which are distributed among the wards. As a precaution against infection, books are not distributed between wards. Two voluntary librarians from the British Red Cross Society undertake the issue of books for the patients' library at Grove Park hospital.

Christmas festivities—In October, 1948, the Management Committee decided that preparation should be made for Christmas festivities at the group hospitals for patients and staffs. It was the custom of the London County Council to make a grant per head of patient and staff in respect of three of the four group hospitals, and as these allowances had not been increased for many years the Committee decided to make a substantial increase in the former allowances for the provision of Xmas trees, decorations, entertainments, children's toys and additional dietary etc., which was approved by the Ministry of Health. A comprehensive programme was arranged for each hospital and the Management Committee are grateful to the staff for their enthusiasm and inspiration which made such a success of the festivities and functions organised during the Xmas period.

Common Seal—The Management Committee is required by Part IV of the Third Schedule of the National Health Service Act to have a Common Seal being a “ body corporate ” with perpetual succession. A design for the Common Seal was approved, a description of which is as follows :—

Lewisham had no registered armorial bearings from which emblems could be authoritatively used, but there were two elements considered essential to a possible future Lewisham coat of arms, i.e., the stag's head of the arms of the Earl of Dartmouth, and the raven, used as a crest, alluding to the river Ravensbourne.

The seal therefore features the stag's head of the Legge family (that of Lord Dartmouth) holders of the Manor of Lewisham and on the forehead is a star, or five-pointed “ mullet ” referring to the Legge family supporter of a stag covered with such stars. The stag's head, together with the five-pointed star, also appears in the shield used by the borough of Lewisham.

The stag holds in its mouth the Rod of Aesculapius, symbol of hospitals and medicine, and across its antlers is tied a twisted crest wreath, upon which is perched the Raven which Lewisham uses for a crest.

The design is thus a connected “ whole ” not a pictorial display of isolated objects, and contains clear allusions to Lewisham and hospital work.

Endowment and “ free ” moneys—The Management Committee have at their disposal as “ free money ” for the expenditure on amenities for patients or staff, income derived from endowments transferred to them under the Act, and from gifts and legacies etc. The Minister has not yet made a decision regarding certain endowments, or as to the disposal of certain legacies, Samaritan and donation accounts. From 5th July to 31st December, 1948, a total sum of £345 16s. 8d. in gifts and legacies was received.

Medical libraries—At each of the group hospitals, laboratories and chest clinic, the Management Committee made provision for an annual grant for the purchase of periodicals, a subscription to a medical lending library, together with an initial grant for the purchase of medical reference books.

STATISTICS.

In-patients—1st January—31st December 1948

	Lewisham	St. John's	Grove Park	Park	Total
1. Beds <i>(a)</i> Potential <i>(b)</i> Average daily number available (<i>staffed</i>) ... <i>(c)</i> Average daily number occupied ...	611	112	401	(300 genl.) (272 fevers) 572	1,696
2. Number of patients in the hospital on 31st Dec. 1947 ...	387	103	268	145	903
3. " " " " " " " " " " 1948...	384	87	238	110	819
4. Average number of days each patient was resident ...	376	90	203	124	793
5. Number of patients <i>(a)</i> Admitted 	396	78	255	97	826
" " " " " " " " " " " " "	20	15	141	26	—
<i>(b)</i> Discharged 	7,035	1,967	416	1,511	10,929
<i>(c)</i> Died 	6,503	1,921	328	1,499	10,251
6. Number of live births 	512	58	36	39	645
Number of operations performed <i>(a)</i> Major 	1,502	—	—	—	1,502
<i>(b)</i> Minor 					
<i>(c)</i> Minor (<i>out-patients</i>)	1,449 2,057 975	920 987 411	62 178 —	4 16 —	2,435 3,238 1,386

Out-patients—1st January—31st December, 1948

		Lewisham Hospital	St. John's Hospital	Grove Park Hospital	Park Hospital	Chest Clinic	Totals
Number of new out-patients							
1. Clinics		29,740	15,629	106	76	4,978	50,529
2. Casualty		19,956	3,547	—	—	—	23,503
Total number of attendances made							
	...	142,961	80,871	283	119	17,518	241,752
ditto	1947 ...	121,337	77,953	146	150	12,170	211,756
Comparison between 1947 and 1948							
	...	+21,624	+2,918	+137	=31	+5,348	+29,996

Note Regular out-patient sessions were not provided at Grove Park and Park hospitals.

Nurses' examination results 1st January—31st December 1948

Hospital	Lewisham			St. John's			Grove Park			Park		
	Entered	Passed	Failed	Entered	Passed	Failed	Entered	Passed	Failed	Entered	Passed	Failed
Examination												
State Final ...	21	20	1	15	15	—	—	—	—	Fever 11	10	1
State Preliminary Parts I & II ...	47	37†	10	9	8	1	9	9	—	27	19*	8
Central Midwives Board ...	68	59	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Association	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	(a) 8	2	—	—	—

(a) includes
one Honours
award

*Two passed Part I and failed Part II. One passed Part II and failed Part I.
†Two passed Part II and failed Part I.

PATHOLOGICAL SERVICES

Examinations completed during the period 1st January—31st December 1948

	Lewisham Group Laboratory	Southern Group Laboratory	St. John's Hospital Laboratory	Total
Bacteriological 	25,260	12,831	Total examinations (unclassified) 15,400	38,091
Biochemical	8,404	3,342		11,746
Pathological 	35,805	11,841		47,646
Histological	3,335	841		4,176
Skin tests 	88	1		89
Post Mortems 	300	17		317
Biopsy 	13	—		13
B.M.R. 	225	—		225
Semen 	43	—		43
Rhesus tests 	29,242	—		29,242
Renal Calculus Sternal punctures	73	—	St. John's Hospital 15,400	73
Miscellaneous 	—	1,088		1,088
TOTALS 	102,788	29,961	15,400	148,149

STAFF

Staff employed at 31st December 1948

	(a)		(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
	Whole time	Medical Part time						
Lewisham hospital	26	8	31	23	242	248	28	572
Park hospital ...	5	—	9	4	67	98	21	199
Grove Park hospital	5	9	8	8	66	126	11	219
St. John's hospital	5	29	12	14	64	62	6	158
Southern Group Lab.	3	—	3	21	—	26	7	57
Lewisham Group Lab.	6	—	3	21	—	4	1	29
Lewisham Chest Clinic	3	—	3	2	—	—	—	5
Group Office ...	—	—	23	—	—	—	—	23
	53	46	92	93	439	564	74	1262

Note :—Part time employment in Columns (b)—(g) is included in terms of the nearest whole time unit of staff.

